IN THE CLAIMS

Cancel claims 71-72, 81-82, and 90-91.

Amend claims 70, 73, 76, 80, 85, 89, and 94 as follows:

Add new claims 98-100 as follows:

1-69. (canceled)

70. (currently amended) A method of a server downloading data via a client-server communications network, the method comprising:

receiving a request for data from a client;

determining if the request for data can be fulfilled by the server within a predetermined target period, wherein the predetermined target period varies as a function of a speed of connection with the requesting client; and

sending to the client a proxy list comprising an address of at least one proxy server client which stores requested data in a local cache if the request for data is unable to be fulfilled by the server within the predetermined target period.

71-72. (canceled)

73. (currently amended) A method according to claim 70ₒ2, wherein the predetermined target period is shortened when the client-server-connection-speed of connection is relatively fast and lengthened when the client-server-connection-speed of connection is relatively slow.

74. (previously presented) A method according to claim 70, further comprising maintaining a look-up table which correlates items of data with addresses of one or more proxy server clients at which the items of data are cached.

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75.   (previously presented) A method according to claim 74, further comprising:

receiving cache status change reports from the one or more proxy server

clients at which the items of data are cached; and

updating the look-up table using the cache status change reports.

76.   (currently amended) A method according to claim 74, further comprising:

assessing connection speeds to the one or more proxy server clients whose

addresses are contained in the look-up table; and

discarding or demoting the addresses of proxy server clients having relatively

slow connection speeds failing to meet a target connection speed.

77.   (previously presented) A method according to claim 70, further comprising:

receiving an address of a proxy server client that provided requested data; and

assembling an address list of proxy server clients most commonly accessed to

obtain requested data.

78.   (previously presented) A method according to claim 70, wherein the proxy list

comprises addresses of proxy server clients whose workload is below a workload limit.

79.   (previously presented) A method according to claim 70, wherein the network

comprises the Internet, the at least one proxy server client comprises a user terminal running

a web browser, and the respective local cache is associated with the web browser on the user

terminal.

80.   (currently amended) A client-server communications network comprising:

a plurality of clients, each client including a local cache for storing data

downloaded via the network; and

a server including means for receiving a request for data from a client, means

for determining if the request for data can be fulfilled by the server within a predetermined

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target period, <u>means for sensing a speed of connection with the requesting client, means for varying the predetermined target period based on the sensed speed of connection,</u> and means for sending to the client a proxy list comprising an address of at least one proxy server client which stores requested data in a local cache if the request for data is unable to be fulfilled <u>by the server</u> within the predetermined target period.

81-82. (canceled).

83. (previously presented) A network according to claim 80, wherein the server includes means for maintaining a look-up table which correlates items of data with addresses of one or more proxy server clients at which the items of data are cached.

84. (previously presented) A network according to claim 83, wherein the server includes means for receiving cache status change reports from the one or more proxy server clients at which the items of data are cached, and means for updating the look-up table using the cache status change reports.

85. (currently amended) A network according to claim 83, wherein the server includes means for assessing connection speeds to the one or more proxy server clients whose addresses are contained in the look-up table, and means for discarding or demoting the addresses of proxy server clients ~~having relatively slow connection speeds~~ <u>failing to meet a target connection speed</u>.

86. (previously presented) A network according to claim 80, wherein the server includes means for receiving an address of a proxy server client that provided requested data, and means for assembling an address list of proxy server clients most commonly accessed to obtain requested data.

87.   (previously presented) A network according to claim 80, wherein the proxy list comprises addresses of proxy server clients whose workload is below a workload limit.

88.   (previously presented) A network according to claim 80, wherein the network comprises the Internet, the plurality of clients comprise user terminals running web browsers, and the respective local caches are associated with the browsers on the user terminals.

89.   (currently amended) A server for a client-server communications network, the server comprising:

   means for receiving a request for data from a client;

   means for determining if the request for data can be fulfilled by the server within a predetermined target period;

   means for sensing a speed of connection with the requesting client;

   means for varying the predetermined target period based on the sensed speed of connection; and

   means for sending to the client a proxy list comprising an address of at least one proxy server client which stores requested data in a local cache if the request for data is unable to be fulfilled by the server within the predetermined target period.

90-91. (canceled).

92.   (previously presented) A server according to claim 89, further comprising means for maintaining a look-up table which correlates items of data with addresses of one or more proxy server clients at which the items of data are cached.

93.   (previously presented) A server according to claim 92, further comprising:

   means for receiving cache status change reports from the one or more proxy server clients at which the items of data are cached; and

   means for updating the look-up table using the cache status change reports.

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94. (currently amended) A server according to claim 92, further comprising:

means for assessing connection speeds to the one or more proxy server clients whose addresses are contained in the look-up table; and

means for discarding or demoting the addresses of proxy server clients ~~having~~ ~~relatively slow connection speeds~~ failing to meet a target connection speed.

95. (previously presented) A server according to claim 89, further comprising:

means for receiving an address of a proxy server client that provided requested data; and

means for assembling an address list of proxy server clients most commonly accessed to obtain requested data.

96. (previously presented) A server according to claim 89, wherein the proxy list comprises addresses of proxy server clients whose workload is below a workload limit.

97. (previously presented) A server according to claim 89, wherein the network comprises the Internet.

98. (new) A method of a server downloading data via a client-server communications network, the method comprising:

receiving a request for data from a client;

determining if the request for data can be fulfilled by the server within a predetermined period of time; and

sending to the client a proxy list comprising an address of at least one proxy server client which stores requested data in a local cache if the request for data is unable to be fulfilled by the server within the predetermined period of time.

99. (new) A client-server communications network comprising:

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a plurality of clients, each client including a local cache for storing data downloaded via the network; and

a server including means for receiving a request for data from a client, means for determining if the request for data can be fulfilled by the server within a predetermined period of time, and means for sending to the client a proxy list comprising an address of at least one proxy server client which stores requested data in a local cache if the request for data is unable to be fulfilled by the server within the predetermined period of time.

100.   (new) A server for a client-server communications network, the server comprising:

means for receiving a request for data from a client;

means for determining if the request for data can be fulfilled by the server within a predetermined period of time; and

means for sending to the client a proxy list comprising an address of at least one proxy server client which stores requested data in a local cache if the request for data is unable to be fulfilled by the server within the predetermined period of time.

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